

the Kremlin's brutal treatment of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

I am thankful to Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK for co-leading this resolution with me. I am also thankful to Chairman MEEKS, Europe Subcommittee Chairman KEATING, Ranking Member MCCAUL, Congressman QUIGLEY, Congressman PFLUGER, and Congressman MEIER for their leadership, support, and original cosponsorship on this measure.

Mr. Navalny has been a leader in uncovering gross corruption at the highest levels of the Kremlin that sustain that country's brutal regime. Through new forms of social media, his ability to reach out to and organize Russian citizens has been admirable.

Tragically on August 20, 2020, Vladimir Putin's thugs poisoned Mr. Navalny with the nerve agent, Novichok that nearly ended his life.

After making a recovery in Germany, Mr. Navalny bravely returned to Russia where he was detained and transferred to a modern-day gulag where he faced torture.

To protest these despicable conditions, he has been on a hunger strike for close to three weeks, and is now in critical condition.

Russia has a deeply disturbing history of violence and assassinations to silence dissidents like Boris Nemtsov, Sergei Magnitsky, Alexander Litvinenko and many more.

In response, this resolution strongly condemns the Kremlin's gross mistreatment of Mr. Navalny, calls for him to receive adequate medical care, and urges the Biden Administration to take all appropriate actions to secure his release, including through increased sanctions.

Additionally, the resolution expresses gratitude for the critical work of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in shining a light on these issues, and urges the State Department to take greater action to protect the broadcaster's physical presence in Moscow in face of the Kremlin's disturbing attacks on it.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILDING AMERICA'S AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021. This legislation makes a long-overdue update to the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) by increasing the maximum-allowable PFC by just \$1.00/year, starting in 2023, for four years and then indexes the fee to inflation every year thereafter. This increase to \$8.50 by 2026 would restore the value of the PFC to when it was last increased in 2000.

Airports are an essential part of American infrastructure and economic competitiveness, supporting \$1.4 trillion in annual economic output and 11.5 million jobs. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated airports' finances with a combination of lower passenger levels and a higher demand for health infrastructure improvements to keep the flying public safe. These challenges come on top of a 5-year

\$115 billion infrastructure backlog that is a result of the federal government's failure to modernize one of the main funding mechanisms for airports: the PFC.

The PFC a locally imposed, per-passenger user fee that improves capacity and allows for airport updates, reduces noise, or increases competition among airlines. PFC revenues complement grants from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for eligible capital projects. But under current law, the maximum PFC amount airports can collect is capped at \$4.50 per passenger per flight segment. Congress last adjusted the PFC to \$4.50 in 2000, but with inflation and the rising cost of construction the purchasing power of the PFC has declined 40 percent. As a result, many aging airports have reached their debt capacity and either cannot finance new projects or have had to stretch them over a longer timeframe, increasing the costs and delaying the benefits for passengers.

Modernizing the PFC would raise tens of billions of dollars for airport infrastructure improvements while requiring zero taxpayer dollars, not increasing the national debt, and adding billions of dollars to U.S. Gross Domestic Product. The Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act will ensure that airports are safe, economically competitive, and the envy of the world.

REMEMBERING JAMES L. NEWBROUGH, SR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James L. Newbrough, Sr., of Niles, Ohio, who passed away on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at the age of 83.

Mr. Newbrough was born February 17, 1938 in Brownsville, Pennsylvania the son of Lester and Mabel Clemmer Newbrough. He was a 1956 graduate of Centerville High School and was employed as a field engineer and tool repairman at Republic Steel in Warren for 30 years, retiring in 1986.

Jim was a member of First United Methodist Church in Niles, ITAM No. 39 in Girard, Sincerity Masonic Lodge in Niles, and member and past president of the Niles Men's Democratic Club. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steeler fan, enjoyed golfing, bowling, bocce, working on his lawn, spending time with his grandchildren, and was a United States Army Veteran.

Mr. Newbrough will be deeply missed by his wife Jenny Crockett Newbrough whom he married June 14, 1958, four sons, James L. Newbrough Jr. and his wife Becky of Niles, Mark A. Newbrough of Mineral Ridge, Gary E. Newbrough of Niles, and Attorney Kelly Stuart Newbrough and his wife Teresa of Niles, seven grandchildren, James L. Newbrough III and his wife Kristin, Eric Newbrough and his wife Erin, Kevin Kompanik (Rox), Alex Newbrough, Hannah Newbrough (Jason Ray), Jacob "Jack" Newbrough, Olivia Newbrough, and five great-grandchildren, Ella, Evan, Lexington, Mariah, and Kora.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Gary E. "Duke" Newbrough II, a granddaughter Sarah Lynn Newbrough, three broth-

ers, John, Steve, and Richard Newbrough, and two sisters, Julie Myers and Mary Jane Henck.

I was very proud to call James a great friend and supporter. My deepest condolences go out to Jim's entire family and to all whose lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. WALTER F. MONDALE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Honorable Walter F. Mondale, former Vice President of the United States of America, upon his death this week at age 93. Vice President Mondale was a global statesman, a national political leader, a remarkable legislator, a proud Minnesotan, a devoted husband, a wonderful father and grandfather, and a person people from all walks of life admired.

Growing up in Elmore, Minnesota, Mondale never forgot his small-town roots. Generations of Minnesotans hold him in deep affection, because of his unique ability to connect through his humor, humility and humanity—which was nurtured by his beloved wife Joan. Together from their marriage in 1955 until her death in 2014, Walter and Joan were a team who represented Minnesota and our country with grace, class and dignity.

Inspired and reinforced by Joan, Walter Mondale's life in public service was extraordinary. He served in the United States Army, was the Minnesota Attorney General, and represented Minnesota in the United States Senate. One of his most important roles was redefining the Vice Presidency of the United States as a partnership with the President. He also earned the 1984 Democratic nomination for President and broke a barrier by naming Geraldine Ferraro to be the first woman Vice Presidential candidate on a major party ticket. And while serving as Ambassador to Japan, Walter and Joan demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the power of American diplomacy.

Vice President Mondale's deep and abiding dedication to civil rights, children, health care and the environment have left a profound legacy for current and future generations of Americans. His pioneering leadership in protecting our air, land and water reflected his understanding that our precious lands and waters are the heart of who we are as Minnesotans and Americans, and that requires us to be responsible stewards of our planet.

His authorship of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 was a watershed moment in the environmental movement, bringing much-needed attention to these beautiful but threatened rivers across the country, including the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He was also among the first and most steadfast champions for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, because he understood that our biodiversity and clean water require permanent protection.

I am deeply grateful for Vice President Mondale's kind and wise counsel to me in Congress as I have worked to build on the success of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the

Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, to ensure we are protecting our air, land and water for our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the life of this extraordinary leader, and in extending sincerest condolences to the Mondale family. Minnesota and the United States was blessed to have Walter F. Mondale provide us with a lifetime of service.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act, or the SAFE Banking Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. I want to thank my friend Congressman PERLMUTTER as well as Chairwoman WATERS and Chairman NADLER for their leadership on this issue.

This bill creates protections for financial institutions to be able to provide financial services to state-legal cannabis businesses and ancillary businesses. This would allow these businesses to access the banking system instead of relying on cash transactions.

Marijuana is currently legal in 36 states, 4 territories and the District of Columbia for medicinal or recreational use. This is an important issue as financial institutions prohibit dealing with cannabis businesses because of its current Schedule I, federal status. We need to ensure that these legitimate businesses have access to banking services as more states have medicinal and adult use cannabis programs. Many of these businesses are operating as cash only, which has created many issues for business owners and employees and has led to safety concerns for our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this and other marijuana related issues as they relate to racial and economic inequality. The SAFE Banking Act helps provide a solution to this financial issue, but we must not forget the larger systemic injustice of cannabis prohibition, which has disproportionately impacted Black and brown communities through the war on drugs. We must work together to end federal cannabis prohibition and to pass the MORE Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FLOYD LITTLE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of legendary Syracuse University Football Player and treasured member of the Syracuse community, Mr. Floyd Little, who passed away on January 1, 2021.

Floyd Little played for the Syracuse Orange Football Team from 1964 to 1966 and donned the number 44. This iconic jersey number was assigned to some of the most accomplished

Syracuse University running backs including Jim Brown and Ernie Davis. Like these legendary athletes, Little achieved great success during his college playing career, earning three All-American Titles and was later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

After leaving Syracuse, Little was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the 1967 and quickly emerged as a star in the National Football League (NFL). In his nine seasons in the league, Little was selected to five Pro-Bowls, amassed over 12,000 all-purpose yards, was the league's rushing leader in 1971, and was later inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2010.

Outside of football, Floyd Little was a compassionate and kind-hearted man who dedicated much of his life to community service. He leveraged his success to give back to others and empower his neighbors. Little became a distinguished speaker for charities and fundraisers across the country and frequently donated his time to numerous philanthropic endeavors. He was particularly proud to support the annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund fundraiser, which raises money to fight childhood cancer, and worked extensively with the Walter Camp Football Foundation, which provides athletic opportunities to youth across the country. Like his success in football, Little earned countless accolades in recognition of his generosity and commitment to serving others. Little and his family returned to the Central New York region in 2011 out of a desire to serve his alma mater and the community he loved. Central New York has undoubtedly benefitted from his presence over the past decade, and we all join his friends and family in mourning this loss.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Mr. Floyd Little. Little's athletic legacy is one that is permanently cemented in record-books and Syracuse culture, and his crowning achievements will live on for generations to come. More importantly, however, Little will be remembered as an incredibly generous man who lived his life in service to others. His charitable work remains in the hearts of the thousands of people he helped throughout his life, and he will be remembered as a towering figure who came to be admired wherever he went.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH "JOE" R. MERLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joseph "Joe" R. Merlo, who passed away on December 22, 2020.

Joe was born on June 8, 1945 and was beloved by many people in my community. He was a husband, father, uncle, great uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, cousin, and friend.

Like many who grew up in Niles, Ohio, Joe was a legend. If you didn't get your haircut by Joe at some point in your life, then you weren't really a resident of Niles.

I will always remember Joe for providing me with sage advice early in my political career. Anyone that knew Joe knew he was always fun to be around and was a true Northeast Ohioan.

My deepest sympathies go out to Joe's family and to all whose lives he touched.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNECTICUT'S OMICRON CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of Connecticut's Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this very special organization.

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society is a unique organization whose membership includes tens of thousands of women educators from across the globe. Members focus on promoting their professional and personal growth—striving for excellence in education and dedicating themselves to making a difference in their students' lives, in their communities, and in the world. Over the course of the last fifty years, the members of Connecticut's Omicron Chapter have done just that.

One of sixteen chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma in the state, members of the Omicron Chapter live or work throughout the Naugatuck Valley. They have made it their mission to provide unique programs to the communities of the Valley that blend education and service. They have distributed books to newborns, young children, children of prisoners, and adult education students. Many of their members have knitted afghans and hats for both babies and cancer patients. They have helped to raise funds for UN-sponsored charities, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Umbrella, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Perhaps most inspiring are Omicron's efforts on behalf of the next generations of educators. They understand the importance of nurturing those that will follow them in their professional pursuits. The Omicron chapter has sponsored the tuition for more than one-hundred fifty young women to attend Laurel Girls State, a one-week program rooted in civic education where they learn about how state and local government functions through a hands-on approach with state and local officials guiding the way. In addition, they also sponsor annual college scholarships to high school students planning to pursue careers in education.

From dedicating their professional careers to providing our young people with the strongest of foundations on which to build their future success to developing, implementing, and supporting programs that enrich the education of children outside the classroom, the Omicron chapter and its members have left an indelible mark on countless lives. I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Connecticut's Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni—to another one hundred years.